

## Claims

1. A fuel filter, in particular a diesel filter, having at least one fuel inlet (2), at least one fuel outlet (3), water separator means, at least one sump (4, 32, 44, 51), a water outlet (5, 41, 52) associated with the sump, and control means (6) for the water outlet (5, 41, 52), characterized by means for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off.
2. The fuel filter according to claim 1, characterized by a filter for cleaning the fuel, in which the sump is associated with the clean side of the filter.
3. The fuel filter according to claim 1, characterized by a filter for cleaning the fuel, in which the sump is associated with the dirty side of the filter.
4. The fuel filter according to one of claims 1 through 3, characterized by the filter (54), in particular an activated charcoal filter, for filtering the water to be drained from the sump (51).
5. The fuel filter according to one of claims 1 through 4, characterized by a water absorption and evaporation unit, open to the environment, downstream of the water outlet (4).
6. The fuel filter according to claim 5, characterized in that the water absorption and evaporation unit has a container (11) open to the environment in an upper region.

7. The fuel filter according to claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the water absorption and evaporation unit has an absorbent material (12).
8. The fuel filter according to claim 7, characterized in that the material (12) at least partly comprises an absorbent paper.
9. The fuel filter according to claim 7 or 8, characterized in that the material (12) is at least partly spongelike.
10. The fuel filter according to one of claims 5 through 9, characterized in that the water absorption and evaporation unit has a large evaporation surface area.
11. The fuel filter according to one of claims 1 through 10, characterized by chemicals for binding the contaminants, which are provided in the sump and/or in a chamber downstream of the water outlet.
12. The fuel filter according to one of claims 1 through 11, characterized in that a controllable valve (46, 53) is located at the water outlet (5, 41, 52).
13. The fuel filter according to one of claims 1 through 12, characterized by a valve (43, 46) actuated by a floating body (42).
14. The fuel filter according to one of claims 1 through 13, characterized by a pump provided at the water outlet (5).

15. The fuel filter according to claim 14, characterized by a volumetric pump.
16. The fuel filter according to one of claims 1 through 15, characterized by at least one water level sensor (7, 8, 31, 33, 34), located in the region of the sump (4, 32, 44, 51), for controlling the water outlet (5).
17. The fuel filter according to claim 16, characterized by two water level sensors (7, 8, 31, 33, 34).